Arms treaty

3134. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had the perception that Arms Trade Treaty would help in stopping the smuggling of arms in the hands of terrorists and make them un-armed; and

(b) if so, the reason for Government not taking steps to participate in U.N. sponsored Arms Trade Treaty deliberations and make world forum aware of neighbouring countries contribution in arming terrorists in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) There is at present no treaty known as the Arms Trade Treaty. However, discussions are slated to begin at the United Nations to conclude such a treaty. India has been constructively engaged in the discussions that have taken place at the UN on an eventual legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). India participated actively in the UN-mandated Open Ended Working Group on ATT which met twice in 2009. However, there remain divergences among various countries on the scope, principles, parameters and other aspects of the ATT.

India has accorded high priority to effectively deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through the existing UN mechanisms such as the UN Programme of Action (PoA), India believes that it is not the absence of common international standards on trade in conventional arms alone that results in illicit trade. It is therefore not clear if the ATT alone would help in stopping the smuggling of arms and the flow of arms to terrorists.

Action taken by Pakistan against terrorism

†3135. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to force Pakistan Government to take any action against terrorism although all the documents regarding Mumbai attack have been sent to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Pakistan against terrorists engaged in Mumbai attack at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Government has shared evidence with Pakistan in the form of seven dossiers on the role of Pakistani nationals in the terrorist attack on Mumbai. Pakistan acknowledged and admitted on February 12, 2009 that the terrorist attack on Mumbai on November 26, 2008 was planned and launched from Pakistan. In its dossier of July 11, 2009, Pakistan also acknowledged that substantial incriminating evidence had been unearthed which directly connects five accused LeT operatives under Pakistani custody. Two

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.